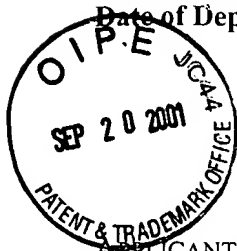


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PATENT APPLICATION
Attorney Docket No 23135-502



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Conrad, et al

SERIAL NUMBER: 09/490,700

EXAMINER: Matthew O. Wells

FILING DATE: January 24, 2000

ART UNIT: 1642

FOR: Methods for Diagnosis and Therapy of Autoimmune Disease, Such as Insulin Dependent Diabetes Mellitus, Involving Retroviral Superantigens

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SEP 25 2001

RECEIVED

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO MARCH 28, 2001, OFFICE ACTION

In response to the March 28, 2001, Office Action ("Office Action") in the above-identified application, Applicants elect with traverse Group IV, claims 26-30 and 44-47 drawn to a protein encoded by the human endogenous retrovirus. Applicants request to additionally elect the claims of Group V, claims 31-33, drawn to antibodies to the protein encoded by the human endogenous retrovirus, classified in class 530, subclass 388.35. The invention of Group IV drawn to polypeptides is related to the invention of Group V drawn to antibodies as the antibodies are produced against the polypeptides of Group IV. Applicants submit that it would not be an undue burden to search antibodies directed to the polypeptides.

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In the claims:

Cancel claims 1-61.

Add the following new claims:

62. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

a) an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:36, SEQ ID NO:38, SEQ ID NO:40, and SEQ ID NO:41;